

JUNE 1997
17

\$3.95
\$5.50 CANADA

ZERO

ZERO



IN THIS ISSUE: MICHAEL DOUGAN IS...

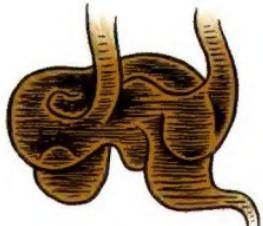
DOUBLE - BLOCKED

A TRUE STORY OF HORROR
AND DESPAIR ... A CARTOONIST'S
REAL-LIFE NIGHTMARE!



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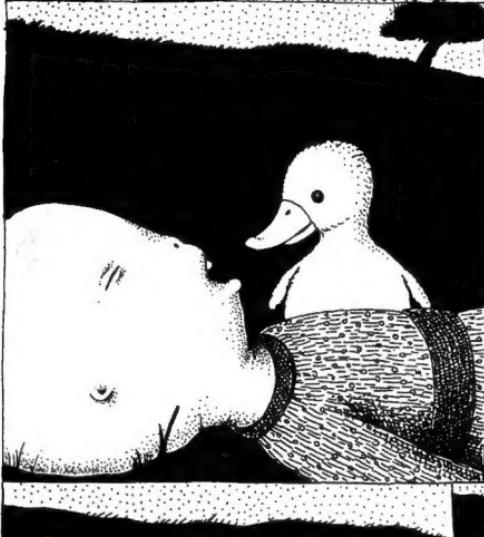
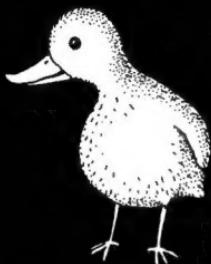
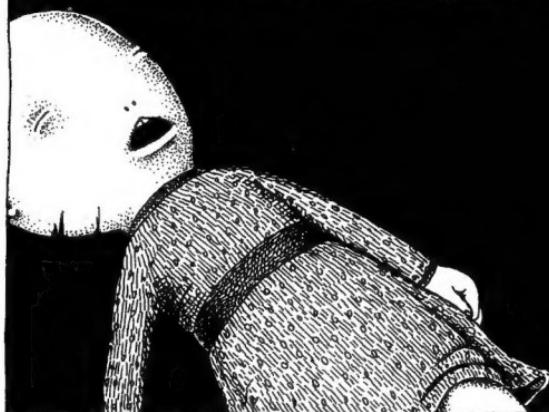
Silent Storie





•DUCK•

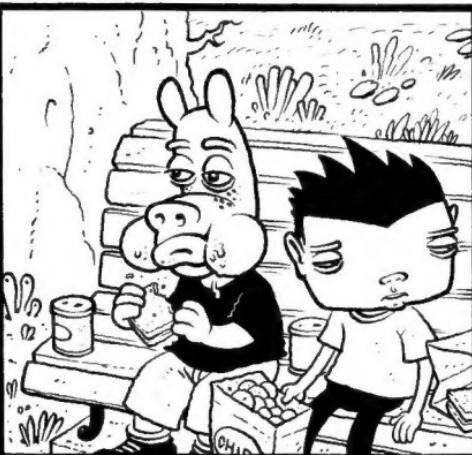
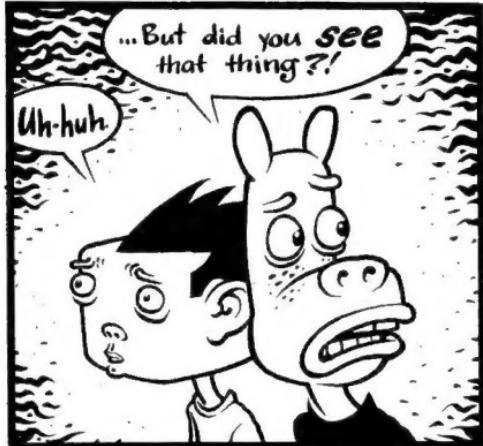
Rene French © 97



HOLY SHIT,
IS THAT THING
REAL???

YUCK



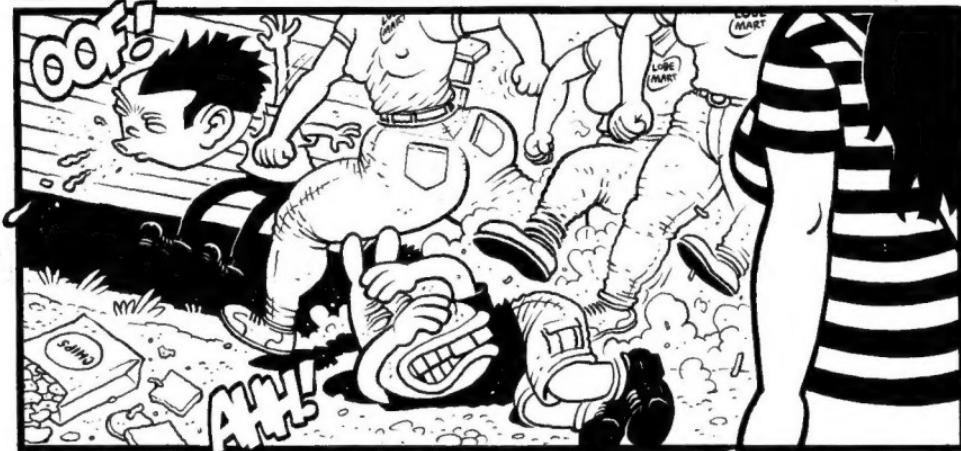
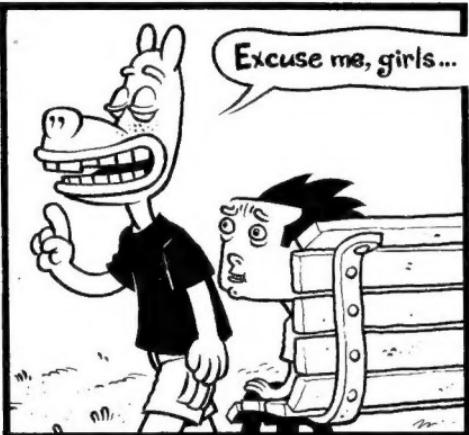


Shoulda went to a
restaurant. This is
Shit.

Yeah, I... don't
have much of an
appetite.

You look
like **crap**,
man.



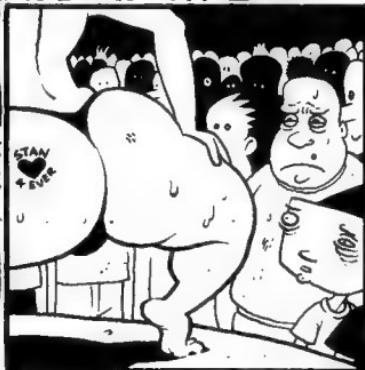




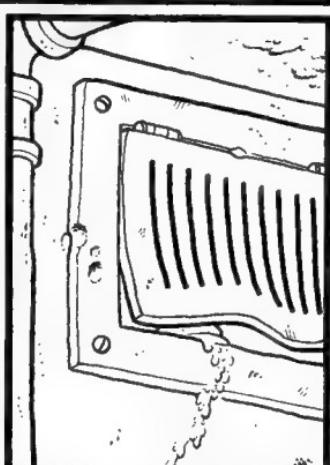
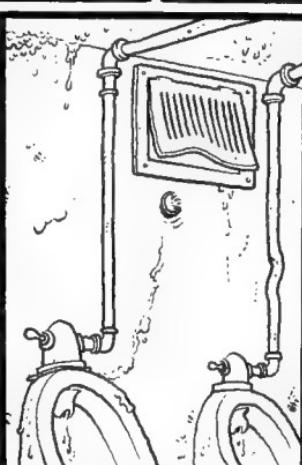
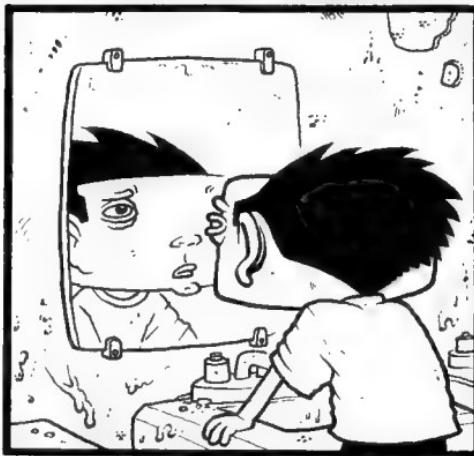
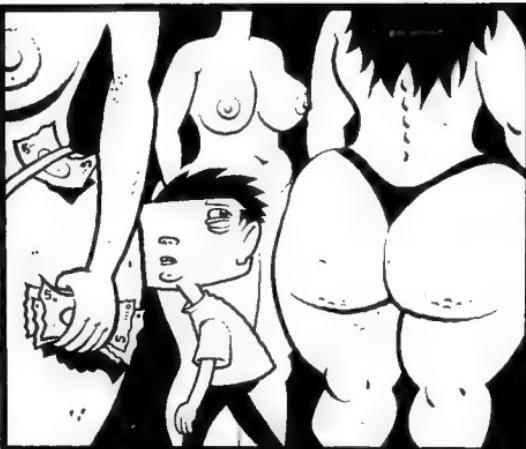


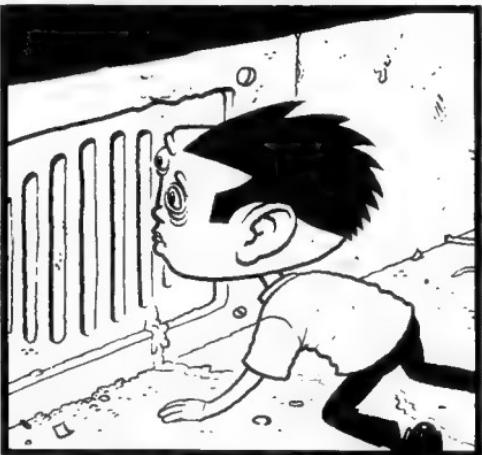
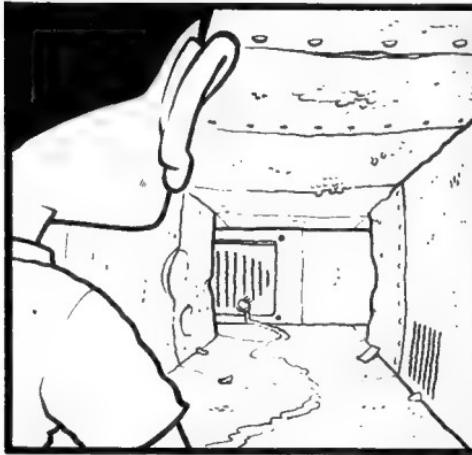
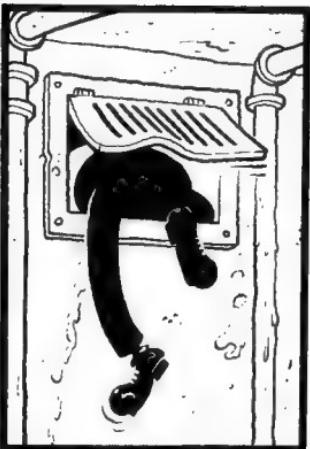
NAKED Bitches strip bar & eatery HOLLYWOOD

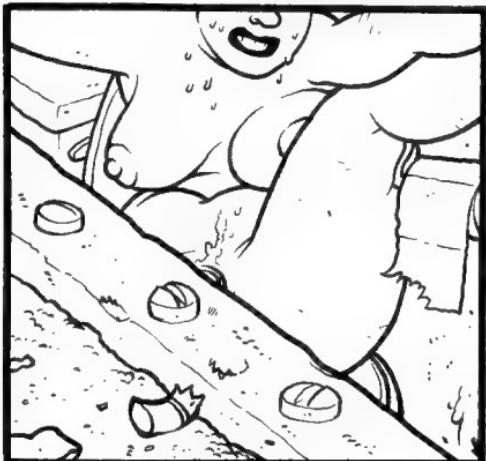
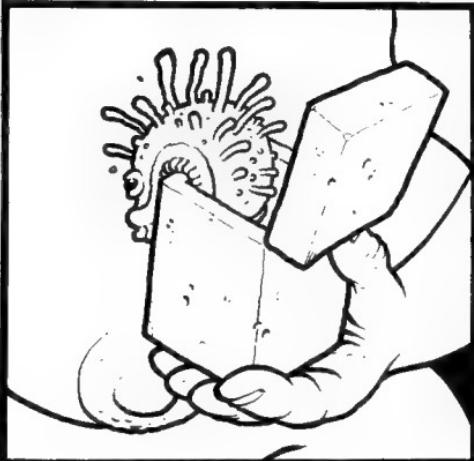
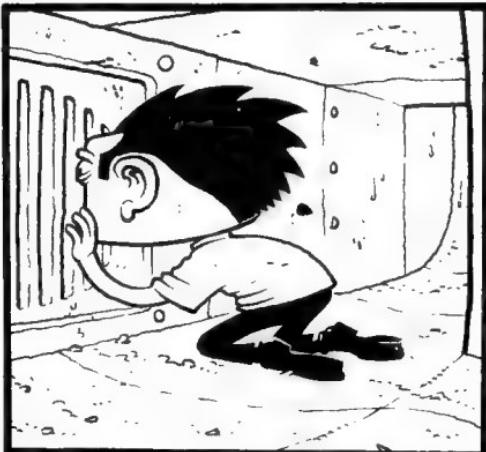
This's more
LIKE it!

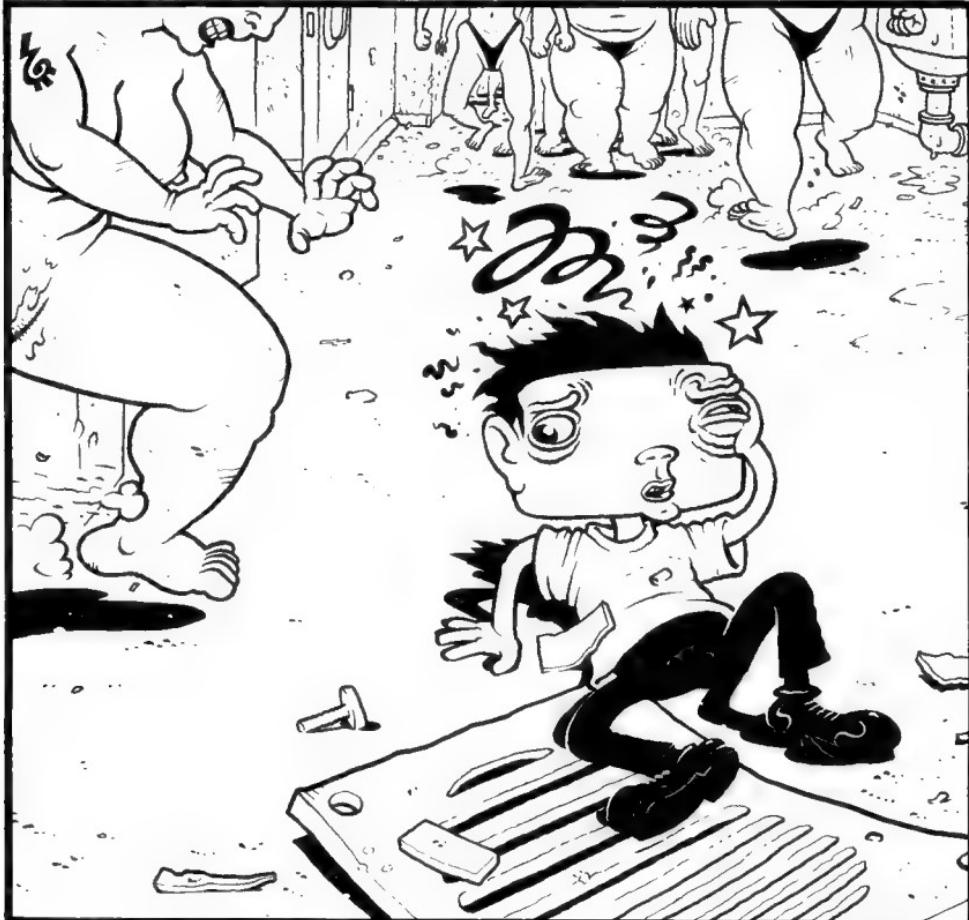
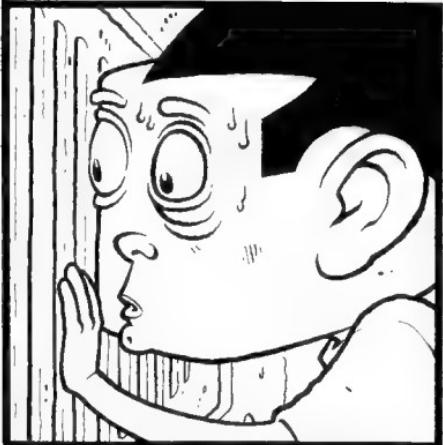






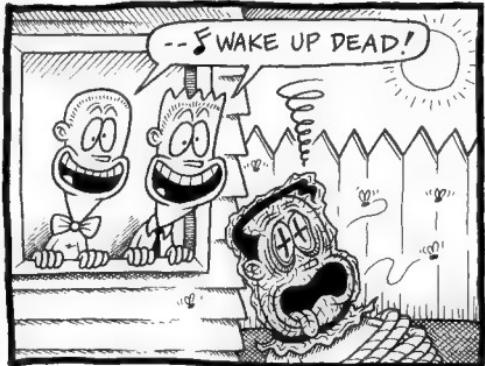
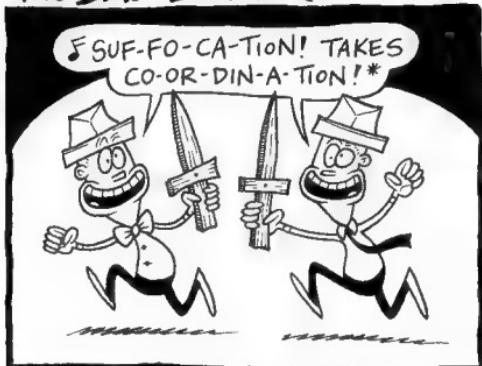






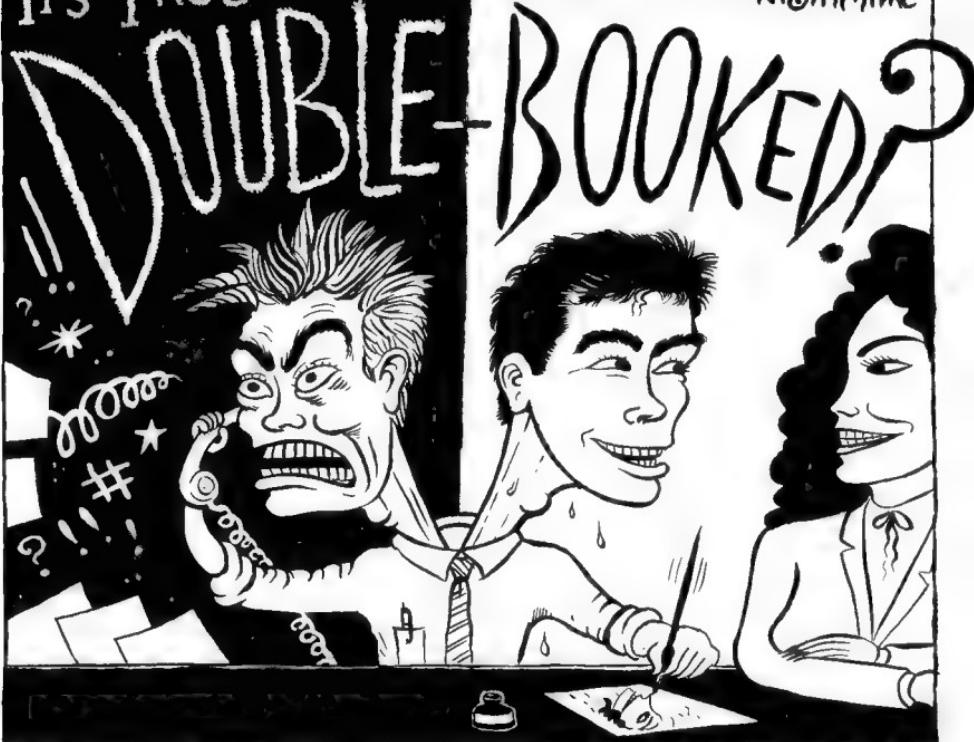
TO BE CONTINUED.

The BAD BOYS (*To the tune of "ALOUETTE") ©'95 by J.WILLIAMS



IT'S TRUE...

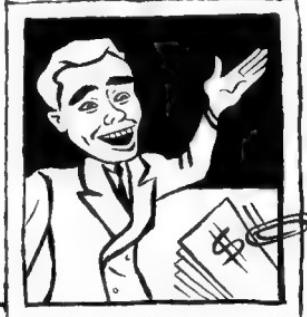
THE DIARY OF A CARTOON NIGHTMARE



It all began when I got hired to draw caricatures at the Seattle Sheraton in May of 1987, for a convention of industrial planners...

It ended with me throwing up in the bushes outside the hotel and wondering if I would ever work in this town again.

It's a fun job, drawing caricatures at special events. I've drawn food importers, Coca-Cola salesmen, microscope scientists, dentists, educators, legislators and their children... These people spare no expense to entertain themselves at these events. Along with the caterers, set designers, ice sculptors and musicians, they also hire clowns, jugglers, mimes, and caricaturists. It works like this. I show up, draw, and get paid. ...SOUNDS EASY, RIGHT?



So ONE DAY I GOT A CALL FROM A COORDINATOR FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PLANNERS RESOURCE COUNCIL, WHOSE BI-ANNUAL "CONGRESS" WOULD BE HELD AT THE SHERATON IN JUST A FEW WEEKS.

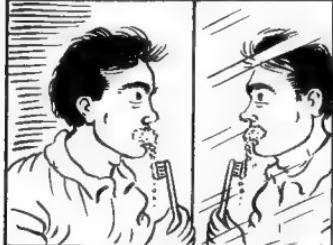
COULD I DO CARICATURES
IN THEIR SUITE FOR TWO
CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS?

**NO SWEAT.
I LOOKED AT MY CALENDAR
AND SAID YES.**

I GOT ANOTHER CALL
ABOUT THE SRME
EVENT AND AGAIN, I
SAID YES.



ON THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT, IT
SUDDENLY BECAME CLEAR TO ME
THAT I HAD SAID YES TO TWO
DIFFERENT COORDINATORS
REPRESENTING DIFFERENT STATES
AT THE SAME EVENT.



OVER THE PHONE I HAD ALSO AGREED TO WORK FOR ONE NIGHT IN THE WASHINGTON STATE SUITE.

BECAUSE I HAD SAID YES TO
WASHINGTON FIRST, AND BECAUSE
I LIVE HERE, I CALLED THE
AGENT FOR TULSA...



YES... UH-HUH... THAT'S
INTERESTING. WELL, YOU HAVE
SIGNED AN AGREEMENT. WE
SUGGEST YOU INFORM
WASHINGTON...



THEN I CALLED REGINA-
OF WASHINGTON STATE AND
EXPLAINED MY SITUATION-



**WASHINGTON
PLANNERS WILL FIND THIS A
SLAP IN THE FACE IF
YOU DONT SHOW UP. YOU
WILL BE THERE. PERIOD.**





I TOOK A CAB TO THE HOTEL...



WHEN I GOT OFF THE ELEVATOR
ON THE 37th FLOOR
ENTERED THE TULSA SUITE.
WAS INTRODUCED TO ANOTHER
CARTOONIST, A GUY NAMED BRIAN.



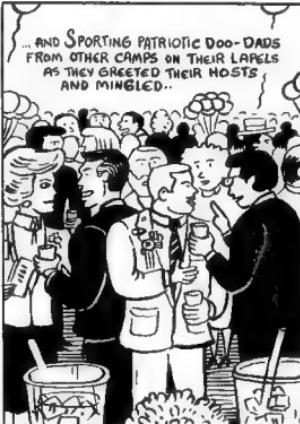
DEBBIE SUE, THE TULSA COORDINATOR, SHOWED ME TO MY TABLE AND I UNPACKED MY SUPPLIES.



THE GUESTS ARRIVED IN TROOPS,
BALANCING COCKTAILS, BROCHURES
AND LITTLE PLATES OF OKLAHOMA
TASTE TREATS...

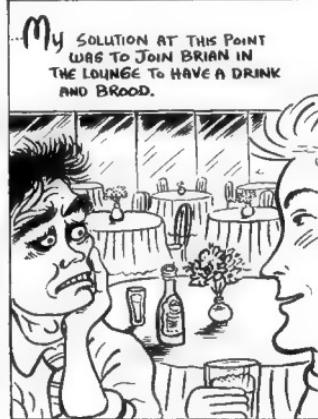


... AND SPORTING PATRIOTIC DOO-DADS
FROM OTHER CAMPS ON THEIR LAPELS
AS THEY GREETED THEIR HOSTS
AND MINGLED..



THEY EVENTUALLY GATHERED IN LITTLE CLUSTERS AT MY TABLE AND I DREW EACH ONE, WHILE BRIAN DID THE SAME AT HIS END OF THE ROOM.





J HAT NIGHT
I HAD A
VERY STRANGE
DREAM...



I THOUGHT I WAS BEING ATTACKED.
... I SCRAMBLED AROUND
LOOKING FOR A STICK. THE
NOISE WAS DEAFENING...



THEN I REALIZED
THEY WERE NOT
ATTACKING ME, BUT
THE SOUND OF BEATING
STICKS... THEY WERE
COMMUNICATING!
THERE WAS SOME
MESSAGE IN THE
NOISE, IT HAD SOME
KIND OF MEANING!
I COULDNT FIGURE
IT OUT...
WHAT DID IT MEAN?





JT WAS THE LACK OF SOLID
FOOD, NOT THE SOUND
OF BEATING STICKS THAT
WAS THE PROBLEM...



J CALLED REGINA
OF WASHINGTON
STATE.. ANNE FROM
THE AGENCY, AND
DEBBIE SUE FROM
TULSA...



 SOON REALIZED THAT
THERE WAS NO WAY TO
AVOID A DISASTER.

MY DECISION WAS TO HONOR MY COMMITMENT TO WASHINGTON STATE, AND FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR MYSELF IN TUSA.



CALLED AROUND TO
FIND AN AVAILABLE
CARTOONIST...

HEY MIKE
WHAT'S UP?
HI MARK!
LOOK, I'M
IN A SPOT HERE,
COULD YOU...?

UH-HUH .. WHAT!?

**HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHA!**

HEY
MARK,
LOOK MAN,
IT'S SIMPLE
AND EASY.



J CALLED OUT FOR
EVERY CARTOONIST
I COULD FIND, AND PACED
ANXIOUSLY WHILE THE
CALLS CAME BACK IN..

TULSA'S "CONTRACT MAN"
CALLED AND WANTED TO KNOW
WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS...



A black and white close-up illustration of a man's face. He has dark hair, a prominent mustache, and is looking slightly to the right. The style is expressive with heavy black outlines.

**MR.
DOUGAN,
THIS IS
NOT
OUR
PROBLEM,
THIS IS
YOUR
PROBLEM
WE HAVE AN
AGREEMENT...**



...IN DESPERATION, I
CALLED THE AGENCY AND
ASKED ANNE TO GET ME
OUT OF THIS.

IF I COULD FIND
A REPLACEMENT, ANNE
WOULD TYPE A NEW CONTRACT,
HAVE MY REPLACEMENT
MEET DEBBIE SUE, AND
EVERYBODY
SUBSTITUTE ME.
ANNE, DEBBIE SUE,
AND THE REAL ME
WOULD MEET AT THE
HOTEL IN ONE HOUR.
YES, I HAD ONE HOUR
TO DO THIS...





2

RETURNED TO MY STATION
AND PREPARED MYSELF
FOR 6 MORE HOURS...

ARE
YOU?
READY?

YES.

WITHIN MINUTES A DOZEN PEOPLE WERE WAITING IN LINE, AND MORE WERE COMING IN THE DOOR...

ES A DOZEN PEOPLE WERE WAITING
MORE WERE COMING IN THE DOOR...

НАНАНАНА
НАНАНАНА
НАНАНАНА

AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR, I BEGAN TO LOSEN UP. THE OKLAHOMANS WERE HAVING FUN.

ХАХАХА
ХАХАХА
ХАХАХА

LOOK AT THE
BIG HAIR
HE DREW
ON HER!

**BIG HAT
HE DREW
ON HER!**

HEY, DRAW EUGENE,
WITH A **BIG NOSE**!
HIS WIFE WILL LIKE
THAT! АНЧИНЧИНЧИН
ЧИНЧИНЧУЧИНЧИНЧИН!

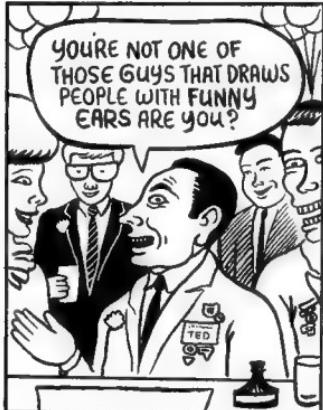
GIMME A BREAK
WILL YA...

ADD SOME HAIR, WILL
YOU PLEASE? MAKE ME
LOOK TEN YEARS YOUNGER.

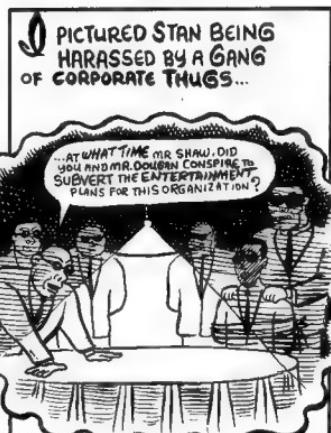
IT'S TOO
LATE FOR
YOU, BOB!

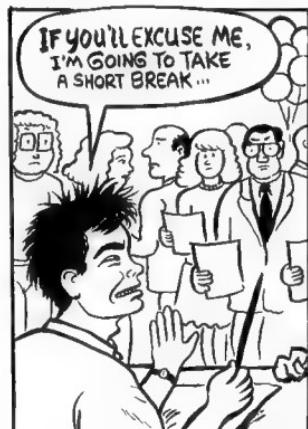
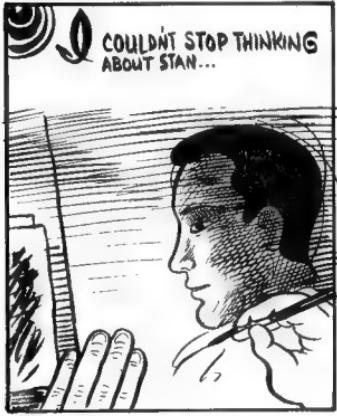
GIVE HIM A
BEARD, TOO!
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA!

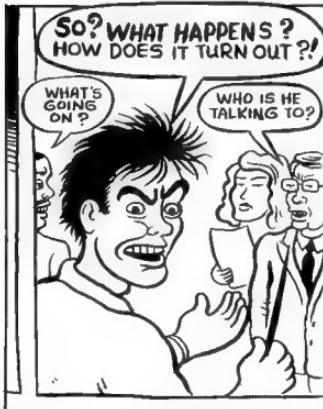
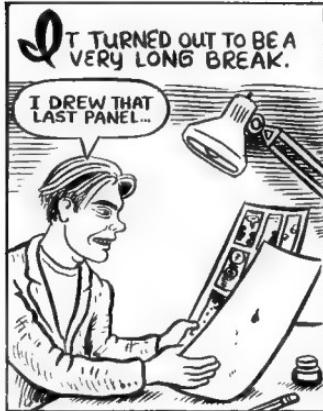
YOU'RE NOT GONNA
DRAW MY PROFILE ARE
YOU? I HATE MY PROFILE...



REGINA OF WASHINGTON STATE HAD JUST ENTERED THE TULSA SUITE.



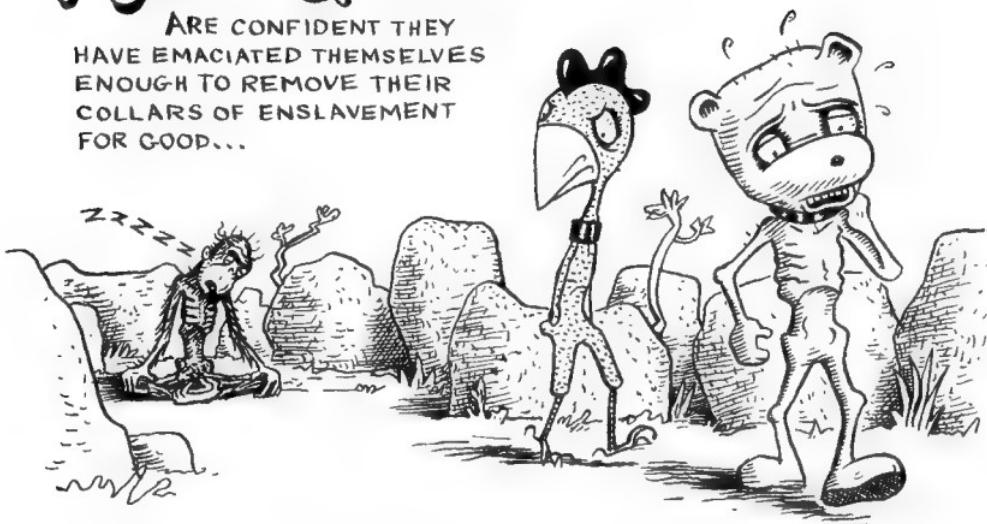


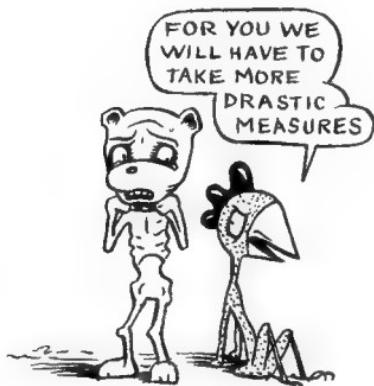


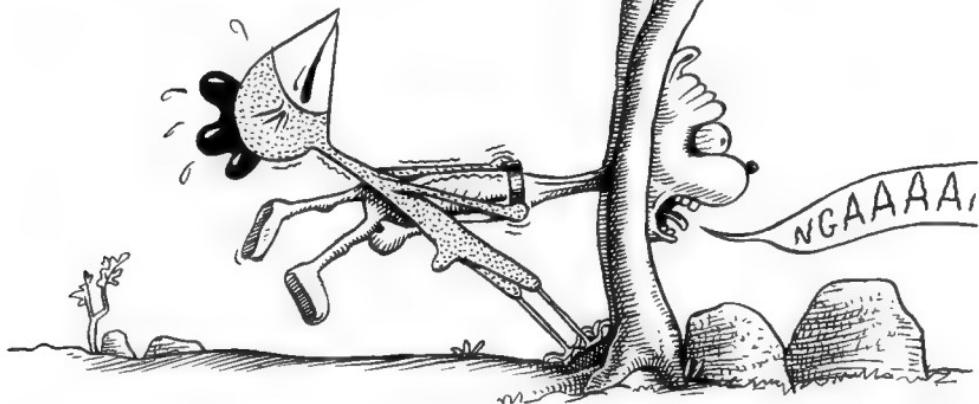


FUZZ & PLUCK

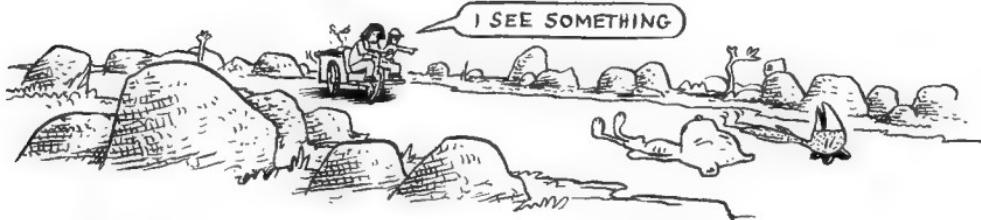
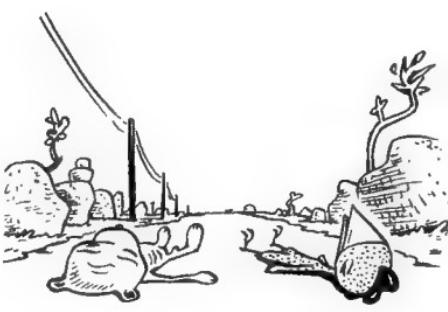
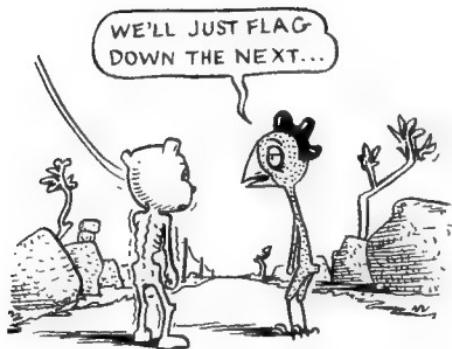
ARE CONFIDENT THEY
HAVE EMACIATED THEMSELVES
ENOUGH TO REMOVE THEIR
COLLARS OF ENSLAVEMENT
FOR GOOD...











IT LOOKS LIKE ROAD KILL, DOCTOR

THEY MUST BE INDIGENOUS
TO THIS AREA...

GOOD. WRITE
THAT DOWN



HOW ODD...THIS CHICKEN
HAS BEEN PLUCKED

AND THIS LOOKS LIKE A
TEDDY BEAR — NOTE THAT
IT IS SEVERELY
MALNOURISHED



THIS IS QUITE UNUSUAL...
WE MUST TAKE THESE
CARCASSES BACK TO THE LAB
FOR A FULL AUTOPSY

DOCTOR...IF I MAY
CONJECTURE...

CERTAINLY



PERHAPS THE BEAR,
HUNGRY AND DESPERATE,
SPOTS THE CHICKEN,
HALF-STARVED AS WELL
IN THIS HARSH TERRAIN...



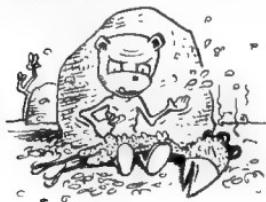
DETERMINED TO CAPTURE
HIS PREY, THE BEAR...



KNOCKS THE CHICKEN
UNCONSCIOUS WITH ONE OF
THE MANY STONES IN
THE AREA...



THEN, AS THE BEAR PROCEEDS
TO PLUCK THE FEATHERS OFF
THE CHICKEN IN ORDER
TO EAT IT...



THE CHICKEN REGAINS
CONSCIOUSNESS FROM ALL
THE PLUCKING...



AND ATTEMPTS
TO ESCAPE...



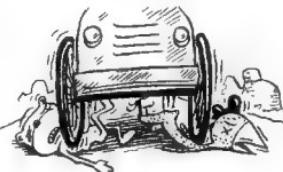
BUT IS CLOSELY FOLLOWED
BY THE FURIOUS BEAR,
DEPRIVED OF HIS MEAL...

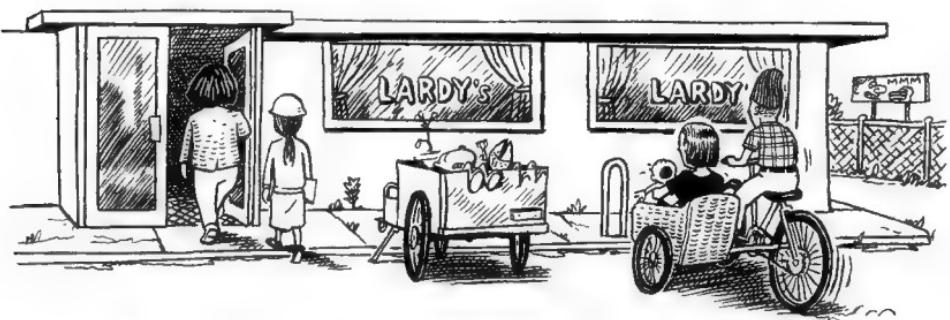


THE CHASE CONTINUES AS
THEY CROSS THE ROAD...

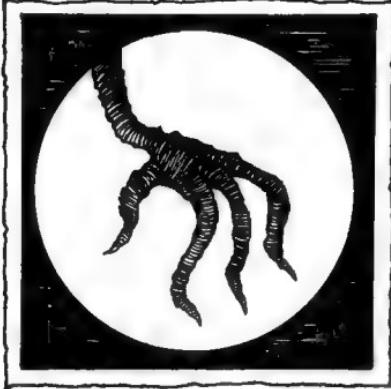


WHERE THEY ARE SUDDENLY
RUN OVER SIMULTANEOUSLY
BY AN UNSEEN VEHICLE...





TO BE CONTINUED



the Chuckling Whatsit

© 1997 Richard Seltz

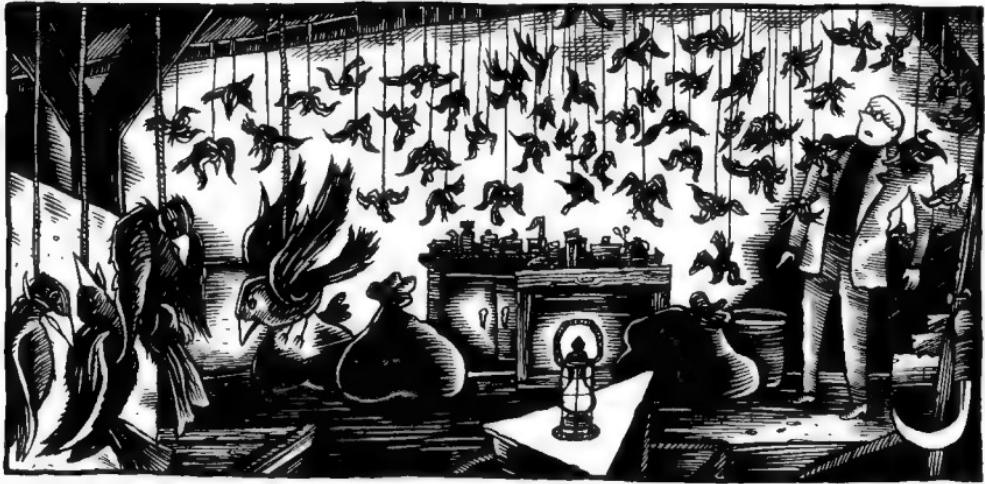
Previously ~

Broom, in Crow's Creek digging into the life of outsider artist Jarnac, learns about Celeste from Dr. Vogardus, and has an unsettling experience in the old windmill, during which he finds ~then loses~ the peculiar hanging doll. That same night he encounters the mysterious Mr. Ixnay ~ and is caught up in a melee with G.A.S.H. He finds temporary refuge at the office of Dr. Vogardus, but soon runs into trouble again.













I'ts Vogardus, isn't it? He's probably kept you prisoner since the night he found Jarnac dead. ~ Hey, maybe he even killed Jarnac to get you back!

No, no.

No.

No. I still ~ remember.

The doctor ~ for a long time he didn't know I was here. After Emile was ~ gone ~ I hid down here ~ in our secret place. I only went out at night, to ~ feed myself.

Then, one day, the doctor found the trap door, ~ found me. ~ He was so angry! Yet, so ~ strange.

The doctor is old, you know ~ very old! ~ But he's strong! He has the strength of a wild beast!

He was surprised when he saw me. ~ Then he laughed. ~ Then he screamed and screamed. Then he took away my children. Took them away!



All except the very special ones. This one and the other one.



So, you were the reason he trashed the place. Your husband wanted to keep your existence a secret so he could hold you here, make sure you never ran away again.



Hee hee hee! ~ This way.



Jeez! What the #@&*??



=Sigh= ~ Oh, those were just some nice young people I met outside one night when I was looking for something to eat. They came down later to help me. Very sad.



And there have been others. So many others. ~



Oh! Here's what I was looking for!



Huh? ~ How did that get down here?



Tsk. Somebody tried to take it. Little Phoebe found it and brought it back. But she hid it from me. The doctor ~ he doesn't want me to play with it. He says it makes me think bad thoughts.



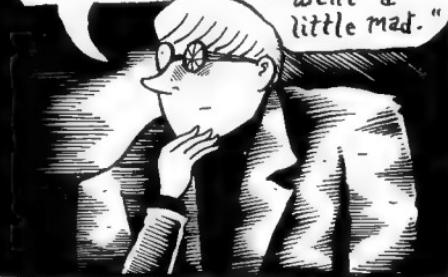
Hee hee hee! Little Phoebe should have given it to me! She's a naughty girl. Naughty, naughty, naughty!



Hmm ~ Phoebe. She's the doctor's "ward." Ha! She's been helping him.



When Vogardus found you, he probably came upon Jarnac's Ghoul get-up hidden down here, too. Man! It must have blown his mind! Like he said ~ he "went a little mad."



When he learned Root had stumbled upon the underground room, seen the costume and who knows what else, Vogardus was desperate. In a sense, he disinterred Jarnac to do the dirty work. The Ghoul returned to make sure the secrets stayed secret.



Am I right? Celeste? Celeste?



Hey ~ moonlight!
The night sky?
An exit?





Read Me

Fifty-one pages of comics this issue! That leaves us a little cramped for space, but we have a few public-service announcements to get off our chest... Thanks to the Cartoonists of America for ZERO ZERO's second "Best Anthology" nomination in the Harvey Awards (occasional ZZ contributors Charles Burns, Dan Clowes, Bill Griffith, Gilbert Hernandez, Kaz, and Chris Ware were also cited); the results will be announced in mid-April at WonderCon in San Francisco... Thanks to Marc Arneson for pitching in one last time with the design on this issue (he also colored the cover, based on Michael Dougan's guide)... And so, as we lurch into our third year of publication, we bid you a fond adieu until next time...

—KIM THOMPSON

Ordering info

All the items listed on this page can be ordered from:

**FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS,
7563 Lake City Way NE,
Seattle, WA 98115.**

(All back issues of ZERO ZERO are \$3.95 except for #8, which is \$5.95.) Just add \$3.00 shipping to any size order (except for a subscription, which is \$18.95, \$20.95 outside the U.S., for five issues). Mail your order to the above address — or, if you have a Visa or MasterCard, call it in at 800-657-1100.

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Next Issue



Front cover: Michael Dougan

Back cover: Ethan Persoff

Inside front cover: Stephane Blanquet

Editor: Kim Thompson

Art Director: Mark Arneson

Promotion: Eric Reynolds

Marketing: Chris Jacobs

Circulation: Matt Counts, Tom Malone.

Control Issues



1 ZEROZERO1

(March/April 1995)

TECH STARN premieres "Fuzz and Pluck"; PAT MORIARTY and CHARLES BUKOWSKI team up; plus MAX ANDERSSON, DAVID COLLIER, GLENN HEAD, DAVID HOLZMAN, FRANK STACK, HENRIETTE VALIUM, J.R. WILLIAMS, and a jam by KIM DETCH and MICHAEL DOUGAN.

2 ZEROZERO2

(May/June 1995)

RICHARD SALA debuts "The Chucky Whistle"; MACK WHITE premieres "Homunculus"; "Car-Boy" by MAX ANDERSSON; SPAIN's Trashman! Plus DAVID MAZZUCHELLI in Japan, GLENN HEAD, MATS!, DAVID COLLIER, WARNO, and more! ZERO ZERO 1

3 ZEROZERO3

(July 1995)

Skip Williamson and RICK ALTERGOTT debut; FRANK STARN's "Jesus" ends, plus MAX ANDERSSON's pantomime strip "Loita!" Plus NEWGARDEN, COLLIER, "Whatta?", and "Fuzz and Pluck"!

4 ZEROZERO4

(August 1995)

"Meat Box" by KAZ and GEORGARAKIS debuts, plus COLLIER, a TECH STEARN dream story, JEFF JOHNSTON, CAROL TYLER, MAX ANDERSSON, a MARK BEYER "Sign of the Apocalypse," plus AL COLUMBIAS' 2-color "I Was Killing When Killing Wasn't Cool!"

5 ZEROZERO5

(Sept/Oct. 1995)

JOE COLEMAN cover! CHRIS WARE frontispiece! RICHARD GREEN back cover! KIM DETCH, MAX ANDERSSON's "Curse of the Cuddly Others Factory," Part 2 of "Meat Box," "Whatta," COLLIER, and another episode of "Homunculus."

6 ZEROZERO6

(Nov/Dec. 1995)

KIM DETCH premieres "The Strange Secret of Mr. Nibbles"; RICHARD SALA debuts "Fuzz and Pluck"; "Chucky Whistle"; DAVID COLLIER, SKIP WILLIAMSON, PENNY VAN HORN, GLENN HEAD, and a full-color "Sign of the Apocalypse" by RICK ALTERGOTT.

7 ZEROZERO7

(July/Aug. 1996)

Skip Williamson takes a trip down memory lane! Virgin ZZ forays from SAM HENDERSON, STEPHANE BLAIVOLET, and the trippy duo of SUSAN CATHERINE and OSCAR ZARATE, plus "Whatta," COLLIER, and a Henriette Valium back cover.

8 ZEROZERO8

(Sept/Oct. 1996)

BIG, big anniversary issue, kicked off with a CHARLES BURNS cover, plus two-color "Self Boy" by ARCHER PREWITT, "Whatta," and "Meat Box" by AL COLUMBIAS; DAVID NEWGARDEN, COLLIERS, "Homunculus," "Whatta," COLLIER, and a back cover by DAVE COOPER.

9 ZEROZERO9

(Sept/Oct. 1996)

Skip Williamson returns with "Death," his biggest collection yet! PROY T. REVESS and JOAHIN PRINCE make their ZZ debut! All this plus COLLIER, COOPER, DODGE, and SALA, and a back cover by none-other-than DANNY TOMPKINS!

10 ZEROZERO10

(July 1996)

DREW FRIEDMAN cover! EIGHT PAGES OF HENRIETTE VALIUM! New "Morme" story by SAM HENDERSON! Plus, a SKIP WILLIAMSON back cover, a "Car-Boy" story by MAX ANDERSSON, JEFF JOHNSON, DAVE COLLIER, ALEKSANDAR ZOGRAF, "Homunculus," & "Whata?"

11 ZEROZERO11

(August 1996)

DAVE COOPER's epic "Crumple" begins with a big ol' 17-page chapter! PROY T. REVESS and JOAHIN PRINCE make their ZZ debut! All this plus COLLIER, COOPER, DODGE, and SALA, and a back cover by trailer-trad's BOB TOMPKINS!

12 ZEROZERO12

(Sept/Oct. 1996)

MAX ANDERSSON returns with "Death," his biggest collection yet! PROY T. REVESS and JOAHIN PRINCE make their ZZ debut! All this plus COLLIER, COOPER, DODGE, and SALA, and a back cover by none-other-than DANNY TOMPKINS!

13 ZEROZERO13

(Nov/Dec. 1996)

BIG, big chapter of "Fuzz and Pluck." ALSO: Sam, MAX HENDERSON's "Seized Assets," SKIP WILLIAMSON's "Sonic," "Sweet Things," "Whata?" plus "Homunculus," "Whata?", COLLIER, JIM BLANCHARD back cover, and the return of "Idiotland" by DOUG ALLEN!

14 ZEROZERO14

(Jan/Feb. 1997)

STEPHANE BLANQUET cover, and the first two-comic-strip-in-a-row of "Milk Stories"! MIKE DIANA/TERRY LABAN! Plus, of course, more "Whata," more "Crumple," and a back cover by KIM DETCH!

15 ZEROZERO15

(March 1997)

JOE SACCO goes to Bosnia with his first major comic strip since *Palestine*. Plus COLLIER, REVESS, COOPER, VALIUM, SALA, HENDERSON's "Girly Stamp Guy," and a "Sign of the Apocalypse" by COLUMBIAS!

Contributing Cartoonists (present):

Stephane Blanquet, Dave Cooper, Michael Dougan, Ethan Persoff, Richard Sala, and Ted Stearn.

Contributing Cartoonists (past & future):

Mark Andersson, MACK WHITE, Susan Catherine, Bruce Christip, Dan Clowes, David Collier, Al Columbia, Kim Detch, Mike Diana, Bob Fingerman, Mary Fleener, Drew Friedman, Timothy Georgarakis,

Francesca Ghermandi, Justin Green, Bill Griffith, Glenn Head, Sam Henderson, David Holzman, Jeff Johnson, Kaz, Krystine Krytte, Terry LaBan, Dave Lasky, Mats!, David Mazzucchelli, Pat Moriarity, Th. Metzger, Mark Newgarden, Joakim Pirinen, Archer Prevert, P. Reves, Joe Sacco, Frank Stack, Roy Tompkins, Penny Van Horn, Henriette Valium, Chris Ware, Mack White, J.R. Williams, Skip Williamson, Oscar Zarate, and Aleksandar Zografi.

THAT
DAMN
ROBOT



ZERO APOCALYPSE
ZEBO's FUNNIES TODAY: ESCAPE!
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HMM.



SHOOT!



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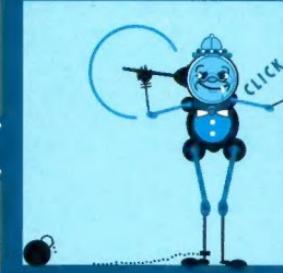


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